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MONTREAL WEST GIRL HEADS STAFF OF 20 IN TUTORIAL PROGRAM

By Terry Pye

Ann Burke, a 20-year old third year Political Science student at Loyola College, wanted to do something different this summer. The Montreal West native decided to apply for a grant to set up a tutorial service when she heard about the Opportunities for Youth program. She now finds herself co-ordinator of a $10,617 project, with 20 tutors and 174 participating students under her wing.

One of six children of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin A. Burke of 16 Crestwood Avenue in Montreal West, Ann worked the previous three summers in her father's office, but wanted out this year. When she told her father she wanted to do something else, he pointed out the dim job market opportunities for students, but told her to try. When her professor of her Canadian politics course, Marcel Danis, mentioned the Opportunities for Youth grants in class, Ann got together with her sisters of Zeta Tau Omega Sorority and came up with the idea of a summer tutoring service for primary, secondary and CEGEP students who had either failed courses, wanted help prepping for exams, or wanted to prepare in advance for next year's courses. With the advice of Prof. Danis, Ann put together her submission and was given a grant of $13,483.

Called the Zeta Tau Tutorial Service and operating out of the sorority house on Sherbrooke Street next to the College, the program is now in full operation, with classes being held in the homes of the tutors, the students, and classrooms supplied by Loyola. Ann had planned on doing some tutoring herself, but now realizes that running the project requires her full attention. "I didn't realize there was so much paper work involved.

I just came back from Ottawa with our first cheque, and now I have to issue pay cheques to the tutors for the time they already put in. We have to set up a bookkeeping system, and the phone never seems to stop ringing. I also have to check the tutors regularly to see how they're doing. But it's a lot of fun, and at the same time we're helping the kids learn."

Ann is more than elated over the response to the Tutorial Service. Students were at first solicited by erecting posters in the local West End area schools, and by ads in the local weeklies, but now the big response is from parents who get information by word of mouth from friends. Most of the students, Ann says, really get into the program. A few were forced against their better wishes by their parents to enroll, but after a few sessions are as eager as those who joined on their own. As the program is only running for June and July, one group of parents in Westmount wants the local PTA to subsidize the service for the month of August so it may continue to operate. "The great response of the parents is what really surprised me," says Ann.

In her submission to the Secretary of State's Department, Ann had originally requested $13,483, but when approval came three weeks after the plan was to go into operation, Ann sent in a revised budget slashing $3,000 from her original request. It took four phone calls from Ottawa to establish that she was in effect asking that her grant be reduced, and when she went to the Capitol to pick up her money was met by an incredulous, "Oh, yes, you're the one who cut your own budget."

An honours student in Political Science, Ann came to Loyola from Sacred Heart Convent and Marymount High School. Like her four brothers and sister, Ann's parents sent her to elementary school in French, and she is fluently bilingual. An older sister is married, while two brothers attend Loyola HIgh School, one is a boarder at Scollard Hall in North Bay, and another is in Engineering at McGill. Following her B.A., Ann wants to take law at Université de Montréal, but not to practice. She plans either a career in college teaching or in the Department of External Affairs. Recently she took time out from the hectic pace of directing her project to attend the National Union convention as

a delegate. But most days she is busy at Loyola running the enterprise, and will be up until the first week in August. Then she will make her reports, course and tutor evaluations, and close the books. After that, "I think a week in Cape Cod would do me good."

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ANGELA BURKE
PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR
482-0320 Local 437.